

## Garrett Park Film Society: 2008 Film List

**January 18: Destry Rides Again (American, 1939), Comedy.** Jimmy Stewart and Marlene Dietrich in a classic Western that combines suspense, comedy, romance, songs, tragedy, horseplay, and vivid characterization. See why Lord Beaverbrook said, “Marlene Dietrich standing on a bar in black net stockings, belting out See What the Boys in the *Back Room Will Have*, is a greater work of art than the *Venus de Milo*.” Be prepared for a very entertaining evening!

**February 15: Avenue Montaigne (French, 2006), Comedy, Drama.** This is our Valentine’s Day treat. “An absolute must for Francophiles and a great choice for anyone who loves a vibrant ensemble dramedy, Avenue Montaigne is a bustling delight, a slice of Parisian artistic life that will have you dialing Air France the morning after you see it.” Subtitled. Suitable for early teens.

**April 4: Crash (American, 2005), Crime, Social Issues.** Described by one reviewer as “compelling, brilliant, gripping, constantly surprising—everything cinema should be,” it won the Academy Award for best picture in 2006. This thought-provoking film will be followed by a discussion of the issues it raises about the human condition and living in the modern world. Suitable for mature teens.

**June 13: Legend of the Drunken Master (Hong Kong, 1994) Comedy, Martial Arts.** Jackie Chan, the world’s biggest action star, mixes high-proof action with a twist of his trademark humor. Elaborate acrobatic fight sequences are captured in this unusual film. Suitable for teens and the rest of us! Subtitled.

**July 18: East is East (English, 1999), Comedy, Drama.** This film presents the cultural clash in a Pakistani–English family when the father attempts to arrange the marriages of his sons. You will be struck by the universality of family dynamics and have a good laugh in the bargain. Kid-friendly and in English.

**September 5: Children of Heaven (Iranian, 1997), Comedy, Drama.** A “perfect movie for children” and adults, according to Roger Ebert. The film offers a window into a culture and country about which we know little, yet reveals much about what we all have in common. Subtitled. Suitable for ages 8 and up.

**October 17: Election (American, 1999), Comedy.** As we head into the 2008 election, come enjoy this hilarious look at a campaign for Student Body President. Tracy Flick (Reese Witherspoon at her best) is the hyper-ambitious solo candidate until civics teacher Jim McAllister (Matthew Broderick in good form) encourages a dim but popular football player to run. Chaos ensues. You will laugh while nodding in recognition at the elements of ambition, corruption, and desire that can be found in real-world elections.

**November 21: Rules of the Game (French, 1939), Comedy, Drama.** Suitable for mature teens, this film, directed by Jean Renoir (Pierre-Auguste’s son), is considered one of the greatest movies of all time by many film critics. The story is an upstairs-downstairs comedy of manners set in a French country estate, but it is the “masterly visual design” that takes “the black and white film to the realm of immortality” according to reviews. Subtitled.